

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application. In this listing, claims 2-78, 85-166, 168-249, and 251-329 have been cancelled, claim 167 is amended, and claims 330-649 have been added.

Listing of the Claims

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AI CONT'D 1. (Original) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to record and play back programs on-demand;

distribution equipment configured to distribute programs to each user that are recorded and played back on-demand with the remote media server for each user; and

interactive program guide television equipment on which an interactive television program guide is implemented and wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

generate a record request in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

generate a playback request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

record the program in response to the record request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

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play back the program in response to the playback request generated by the interactive television program guide.

2-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Original) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and retrieved on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to store and retrieve programs on-demand for each user;

distribution equipment configured to distribute to each user programs that are retrieved on-demand by the remote media server for each user; and

interactive program guide television equipment on which an interactive television program guide is implemented and wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

generate a record request in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

record a program in response to the record request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

retrieve a program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide.

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80. (Original) The system defined in claim 79 wherein the distribution equipment is configured to distribute programs to each user as at least on file.

81. (Original) The system defined in claim 79 wherein the distribution equipment is configured to distribute programs to each user in digital data streams.

82. (Original) The system defined in claim 79 wherein:

the interactive program guide television equipment further comprises user television equipment; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to play back a program on the user television equipment that was retrieved by the remote media server.

83. (Original) The system defined in claim 79 wherein:

the interactive program guide television equipment comprises user television equipment,

the remote media server is further configured to store and retrieve on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data on the user television equipment to the users as if an associated program were being originally aired.

84. (Original) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are

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recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the method comprising:

generating a record request in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

generating a playback request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program on-demand with the remote media server;

recording the program in response to the record request with the remote media server; and

playing back the program with the remote media server in response to the playback request;

85-166 (Cancelled)

167. (Presently amended) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the system comprising:

means for generating a record request ~~when a user indicates~~ in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

means for generating a playback request ~~when a user indicates~~ in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a the program on-demand with the remote media server;

means for ~~remotely~~ recording a the program on-demand in response to the record request with the remote media server; and

means for ~~remotely~~ playing back a the program with the remote media server in response to a the playback request; ~~and~~

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~~means for distributing the played back program to  
a user who indicated a desire to play back the program.~~

168-249 (Cancelled)

250. (Original) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

- a remote media server configured to store and play back programs on-demand for each user;

- an Internet service system configured to:

- provide a record request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

- provide a playback request to the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

- record a program in response to the record request provided by the Internet service system; and

- play back a program in response to the playback request provided by the Internet service system.

251-329. (Cancelled)

330. (New) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the system comprising:

- interactive program guide television equipment on which an interactive television program guide is implemented and

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wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

provide a user with an opportunity to indicate at least one program for recording by the remote media server;

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

331. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

332. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

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333. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay the directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching on the user television equipment in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server.

334. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television equipment comprises user television equipment having storage;  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to a user indicating a desire to play back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;  
the remote media server is configured to retrieve the at least one program and provide it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program on the storage for playback on the user television equipment.

335. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program recorded by the remote media server.

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336. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

337. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

338. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

339. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

340. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

341. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and



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the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to a user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

342. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

343. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the remote media server.

344. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

345. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television equipment comprises distribution equipment and user television equipment having storage;

the distribution equipment is further configured to transmit programs recorded by the remote media server as files; and

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the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the files on the storage for playback on the user television equipment.

346. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television equipment comprises user television equipment;  
the remote media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data on the user television equipment to a user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

347. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a record request in response to a user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and  
the remote media server:  
comprises a consolidator configured to consolidate multiple record requests for a program into a single job; and  
is further configured to record a single copy of a program for multiple users according to the job.

348. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program when at least the

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predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

349. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

350. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the system comprises a local media server configured to:

- record a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and

- play back the program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the interactive television program guide.

351. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to:

- provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server; and

- provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server, wherein the programs recorded by the local media server were indicated by the user for recording by the local media server.

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352. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server.

353. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

354. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

355. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television equipment comprises user television equipment having storage;  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

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the local media server retrieves a program and provides it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program on the storage for playback on the user television equipment.

356. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

357. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward a program with the interactive television program guide.

358. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

359. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

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360. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

361. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

362. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the local media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

363. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

the local media server is further configured to record the program for the first user in response to the playback request.

364. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user

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indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

365. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the local media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the local media server.

366. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

367. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television  
equipment comprises user television equipment

the local media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data on the user television equipment to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

368. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

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369. (New) The system defined in claim 351, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television  
equipment comprises user television equipment having storage;  
and

the remote media server is further configured to  
determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated  
a desire to record a program and to direct the interactive  
television program guide to record the program on the storage  
when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated  
a desire to record the program.

370. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to  
purchase a pay-per-view program; and

the remote media server is configured to record  
the purchased pay-per-view program.

371. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to  
purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-  
per-view program; and

the remote media server is configured to record  
the at least one pay-per-view program.

372. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to  
indicate a program grouping having at least one program for  
recording with the remote media server; and



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the remote media server is configured to record the at least one indicated program of the program grouping.

373. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user that the at least one program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

374. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to prevent the user from indicating the at least one program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

375. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record program associated data for the at least one program indicated by the user.

376. (New) The system defined in claim 375, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

377. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

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378. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

379. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

380. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and  
the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:  
the billing information identifies the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and  
the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

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381. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system  
configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the  
remote media server for the user; and  
the remote media server is further configured to  
generate billing information used by the billing system when  
billing the user, wherein:  
the billing information for the at least one  
program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and  
the billing system charges the user based on  
a flat fee for recording programs.

382. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system  
configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the  
remote media server for the user; and  
the remote media server is further configured to  
generate billing information used by the billing system when  
billing the user, wherein:  
the billing information indicates the at  
least one program that the remote media server recorded for the  
user; and  
the billing system charges the user based on  
the length of the program.

383. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein  
the interactive television program guide is further configured  
to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program  
that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media  
server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording  
a program with the remote media server.

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384. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

385. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

386. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and  
the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:  
the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and  
the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

387. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

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the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

388. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

389. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

390. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program

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that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

391. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

392. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching a program in real time with the remote media server.

393. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

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the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching programs.

394. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

395. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide; and

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the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

396. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

397. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

398. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental



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control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

399. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

400. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the audio format.

401. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the video format.

402. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record program audio in the language.

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403. (New) The system defined in claim 402, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program with the remote media server and to play back the program according to a schedule if less than the predetermined number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

404. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television equipment further comprises distribution equipment;  
the remote media server is further configured to play back programs according to a schedule; and  
the distribution equipment is further configured to distribute programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

405. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:  
automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by users; and  
play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

406. (New) The system defined in claim 330, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:  
automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users; and

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play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

407. (New) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the method comprising:

providing a user with an opportunity to indicate at least one program for recording by the remote media server; and

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

providing a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

408. (New) The method defined in claim 407, wherein:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

providing a directory of program listings comprises displaying a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server in

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response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

409. (New) The method defined in claim 407, wherein:  
providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server; and  
providing a directory of program listings comprises displaying a directory of sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

410. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:  
overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

411. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:  
generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program that is stored with the remote media server;

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retrieving a program from the remote media server and providing it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request; and

storing the retrieved program on storage for playback.

412. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

providing information about the at least one program in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program.

413. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to fast-forward the at least one program that is being played back; and

fast-forwarding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program.

414. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

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providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to rewind the program that is being played back; and

rewinding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program.

415. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to stop the program that is being played back; and

stopping the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program.

416. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to pause the program that is being played back; and

pausing the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program.

417. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

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providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to cache the program that is being played back; and

caching the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program.

418. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

automatically caching all current programs with the remote media server;

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program; and

playing back at least a portion of the cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view the portion of the cache program.

419. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to delete a program that was recorded by the remote media server; and

deleting the program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program.

420. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising automatically deleting programs with the remote media server.

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421. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

playing back at least a portion of a program with the remote media server according to the super-program sequence.

422. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

distributing programs to user television equipment of the user as at least one file; and

storing the files on storage in the user television equipment for playback on the user television equipment.

423. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

storing program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server for an interactive television program guide; and

presenting the program guide data with the interactive television program guide to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

424. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

receiving record requests for a program at the remote media server from user television equipment of a plurality of users;

consolidating the record requests into a single job; and



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recording a single copy of the program for the plurality of users according to the job with the remote media server.

425. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and  
recording the program indicated by the predetermined number of users with the remote media server in response to the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

426. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and  
recording the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program in response to less than the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

427. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

recording a program with a local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and  
playing back a program with the local media server in response to the playback request.

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428. (New) The method defined in claim 510, further comprising providing a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

429. (New) The method defined in claim 510, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server.

430. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising providing a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

431. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of the program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

432. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising:

generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

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retrieving the program with the local media server; and  
storing the retrieved program for playback.

433. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising displaying information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

434. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising fast-forwarding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

435. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising rewinding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

436. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising stopping a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

437. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising pausing a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program.

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438. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising caching a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

439. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising:

automatically caching all current programs with the local media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

440. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising:

generating a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

recording the program with the local media server for the first user in response to the playback request indicating the first user.

441. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising deleting a program using the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

442. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising automatically deleting programs recorded by the local media server.

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443. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

playing back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence with the local media server.

444. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising:

storing and playing back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

presenting program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

445. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

directing the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

446. (New) The method defined in claim 429, further comprising determining with the local media server whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and directing the interactive television program guide to record the program on storage when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

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447. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and

recording the pay-per-view program with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program.

448. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and

recording the at least one pay-per-view program of the package with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program package.

449. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to record a program grouping having at least one program with the remote media server; and

recording the at least one program of the program grouping with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program grouping.

450. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user that a program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

451. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising preventing the user from selecting a program for

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recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

452. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising recording program associated data for a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program.

453. (New) The method defined in claim 130 wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

454. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising displaying on a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server.

455. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

456. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

457. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

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generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user in response to the record request; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on a flat fee for recording the program on the remote media server.

458. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

459. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

charging the user for the at least one program based on the length of the program.

460. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

461. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the



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remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

462. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

463. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

464. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

465. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

charging the user based on the length of the program.

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466. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

467. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the at least one flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

468. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

469. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program in real time;

    generating billing information that indicates the cached program; and

    charging the user based on a flat fee for caching programs on the remote media server.

470. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

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generating billing information that indicates the  
cached program; and  
charging the user based on a flat fee for caching  
programs.

471. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further  
comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in  
response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;  
    generating billing information that indicates the  
program that the remote media server cached for the user; and  
    charging the user based on the length of the  
program.

472. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further  
comprising:

    caching a program in real time with the remote  
media server in response to user indicating a desire to cache a  
program; and

    indicating to the user a charge for the program  
that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote  
media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for  
recording a program on the remote media server.

473. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further  
comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in  
response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and  
    indicating to the user a charge for the program  
that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote  
media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for  
recording programs.

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474. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

    caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and  
    indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

475. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

476. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

477. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

    providing the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

    recording programs with the remote media server in the audio format.

478. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

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providing the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

recording programs with the remote media server in the video format.

479. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

recording program audio in the language with the remote media server.

480. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program with the remote media server;

playing back the program for which a number of users have indicated a desire to record with the remote media server according to a schedule if less than the predetermined number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server; and

distributing the program played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

481. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

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playing back programs with the remote media server according to a schedule; and

distributing programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

482. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by users with the remote media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

483. (New) The method defined in claim 407, further comprising:

automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users with the remote media server; and

playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to a user of the subset of users indicating a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program.

484. (New) A method for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand for a number of users, the method comprising:

recording a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server; and

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retrieving the program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the remote media server.

485. (New) The method defined in claim 484, further comprising distributing the program to the user as at least on file.

486. (New) The method defined in claim 484, further comprising distributing the program to the user in digital data streams.

487. (New) The method defined in claim 484, further comprising playing back a program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program.

488. (New) The method defined in claim 484, further comprising:

storing program guide data associated with a program with the remote media server on-demand in response to a record request for the at least one program;

retrieving the program guide data with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to playback the program; and

presenting the program guide data as if the associated program were being originally aired.

489. A system for use in an interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the system comprising:

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means for providing a user with an opportunity to indicate at least one program for recording by the remote media server; and

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

means for providing a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

490. (New) The system defined in claim 489, wherein:

the means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

the means for providing a directory of program listings comprises means for displaying a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.



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491. (New) The system defined in claim 489, wherein:  
the means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings comprises means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

the means for providing a directory of program listings comprises means for displaying a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

492. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

493. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program that is stored with the remote media server;

means for retrieving a program from the remote media server and providing it to the user television equipment in response to the retrieval request; and

means for storing the retrieved program on storage for playback.

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494. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server; and

means for providing information about the at least one program in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program.

495. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to fast-forward the at least one program that is being played back; and

means for fast-forwarding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program.

496. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to rewind the program that is being played back; and

means for rewinding the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program.

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497. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to stop the program that is being played back; and

means for stopping the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program.

498. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to pause the program that is being played back; and

means for pausing the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program.

499. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to cache the program that is being played back; and

means for caching the program that is being played back in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program.

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500. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for automatically caching all current programs with the remote media server;

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program; and

means for playing back at least a portion of the cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view the portion of the cache program.

501. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to delete a program that was recorded by the remote media server; and

means for deleting the program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program.

502. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for automatically deleting programs with the remote media server.

503. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

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means for playing back at least a portion of a program with the remote media server according to the super-program sequence.

504. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for distributing programs to user television equipment of the user as at least one file; and

means for storing the files on storage in the user television equipment for playback on the user television equipment.

505. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for storing program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server for an interactive television program guide; and

means for presenting the program guide data with the interactive television program guide to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

506. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for receiving record requests for a program at the remote media server from user television equipment of a plurality of users;

means for consolidating the record requests into a single job; and

means for recording a single copy of the program for the plurality of users according to the job with the remote media server.

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507. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

means for recording the program indicated by the predetermined number of users with the remote media server in response to the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

508. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

means for recording the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program in response to less than the predetermined number of users indicating a desire to record the program.

509. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for recording a program with a local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and

means for playing back a program with the local media server in response to the playback request.

510. (New) The system defined in claim 509, further comprising means for providing a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

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511. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for providing a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the local media server.

512. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for providing a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

513. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for overlaying a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of the program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

514. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for generating a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded by the local media server;

means for retrieving the program with the local media server; and

means for storing the retrieved program for playback.

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515. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for displaying information about a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the program recorded by the local media server.

516. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for fast-forwarding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

517. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for rewinding a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

518. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for stopping a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

519. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for pausing a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.



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520. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for caching a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

521. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for automatically caching all current programs with the local media server; and

means for playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

522. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for generating a playback request indicating a first user when a second user indicates a desire to record a program on the local media server for the first user; and

means for recording the program with the local media server for the first user in response to the playback request indicating the first user.

523. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for deleting a program using the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

524. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising means for automatically deleting programs recorded by the local media server.

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525. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising

means for providing the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

means for playing back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence with the local media server.

526. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for storing and playing back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

means for presenting program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

527. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

means for directing the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

528. (New) The system defined in claim 510, further comprising:

means for determining with the local media server whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program; and

means for directing the interactive television program guide to record the program on storage when less than

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the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

529. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and

means for recording the pay-per-view program with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program.

530. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and

means for recording the at least one pay-per-view program of the package with the remote media server in response to the user purchasing the pay-per-view program package.

531. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to record a program grouping having at least one program with the remote media server; and

means for recording the at least one program of the program grouping with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program grouping.

532. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user that a program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

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533. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for preventing the user from selecting a program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

534. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for recording program associated data for a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program.

535. (New) The system defined in claim 534, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

536. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for displaying on a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server.

537. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

538. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for displaying program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and

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program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view a program guide display screen having program listings.

539. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user in response to the record request; and

means for charging the user for the at least one program based on a flat fee for recording the program on the remote media server.

540. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

means for charging the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

541. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information that indicates the at least program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

means for charging the user for the at least one program based on the length of the program.

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CONT'D

542. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

543. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

544. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

545. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

means for charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

546. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

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means for charging the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

547. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for generating billing information that indicates the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user; and

means for charging the user based on the length of the program.

548. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

549. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the at least one flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

550. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for indicating to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

551. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

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means for caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program in real time;

means for generating billing information that indicates the cached program; and

means for charging the user based on a flat fee for caching programs on the remote media server.

552. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

means for generating billing information that indicates the cached program; and

means for charging the user based on a flat fee for caching programs.

553. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

means for generating billing information that indicates the program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

means for charging the user based on the length of the program.

554. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:



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means for caching a program in real time with the remote media server in response to user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

means for indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program on the remote media server.

555. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

means for indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

556. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for caching a program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

means for indicating to the user a charge for the program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

557. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server.

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558. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising means for providing the user with an opportunity to enter a parental control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

559. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

means for recording programs with the remote media server in the audio format.

560. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

means for recording programs with the remote media server in the video format.

561. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for providing the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

means for recording program audio in the language with the remote media server.

562. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

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means for determining whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program with the remote media server;

means for playing back the program for which a number of users have indicated a desire to record with the remote media server according to a schedule if less than the predetermined number of users indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server; and

means for distributing the program played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the program with the remote media server.

563. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for playing back programs with the remote media server according to a schedule; and

means for distributing programs played back by the remote media server according to the schedule to users who indicated a desire to record the programs with the remote media server.

564. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by users with the remote media server; and

means for playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

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CONT'D

565. (New) The system defined in claim 489, further comprising:

means for automatically caching current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users with the remote media server; and

means for playing back at least a portion of a cached program with the remote media server in response to a user of the subset of users indicating a desire to view at least a portion of a cached program.

566. (New) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

means for recording a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program with the remote media server; and

means for retrieving the program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the remote media server.

567. (New) The system defined in claim 566, further comprising means for distributing the program to the user as at least on file.

568. (New) The system defined in claim 566, further comprising means for distributing the program to the user in digital data streams.

569. (New) The system defined in claim 566, further comprising means for playing back a program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program.

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570. (New) The system defined in claim 566, further comprising:

means for storing program guide data associated with a program with the remote media server on-demand in response to a record request for the at least one program;

means for retrieving the program guide data with the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to playback the program; and

means for presenting the program guide data as if the associated program were being originally aired.

571. (New) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and played back on-demand by a remote media server for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to record and play back programs on-demand;

an Internet service system; and

an on-line interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the Internet service system and wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate at least one program for recording by the remote media server;

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to access a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to record the programs with the remote media server; and

provide a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to

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the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs recorded by the remote media server were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

572. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by title for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

573. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme in response to the user indicating a desire to access a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the remote media server.

574. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay the directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server over a program that the user is watching in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the remote media server.

575. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a retrieval request in response to a user indicating a desire to play back at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server;

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the remote media server is configured to retrieve the at least one program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the retrieved program for playback.

576. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display information about at least one of the programs recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view information about the at least one program recorded by the remote media server.

577. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to fast-forward a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward the program with the interactive television program guide.

578. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to rewind a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

579. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

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580. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

581. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

582. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to a user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

583. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

584. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the remote media server.

585. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to:



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provide a user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the remote media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

586. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the Internet service system is further configured to transmit programs recorded by the remote media server as files; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to store the files for playback.

587. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to a user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

588. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the interactive television program guide is further configured to generate a record request in response to a user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

the remote media server:

comprises a consolidator configured to consolidate multiple record requests for a program into a single job; and

is further configured to record a single copy of a program for multiple users according to the job.

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589. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program when at least the predefined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

590. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to record the program on physical media that is sent to users who requested the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

591. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the system comprises a local media server configured to:

record a program in response to the user indicating a desire to record the program with the interactive television program guide; and

play back the program in response to the user indicating a desire to play back the program with the interactive television program guide.

592. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to:

provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server; and

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provide a directory of program listings for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server, wherein the programs recorded by the local media server were indicated by the user for recording by the local media server.

593. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by title for programs recorded by the local media server.

594. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings sorted by theme for the programs recorded by the local media server.

595. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to overlay a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server over a program that the user is watching response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for the programs recorded by the local media server.

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596. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:  
the interactive program guide television  
equipment comprises user television equipment having storage;  
the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to generate a retrieval request in response  
to the user indicating a desire to play back a program recorded  
by the local media server;  
the local media server retrieves a program and  
provides it to the user television equipment in response to the  
retrieval request generated by the interactive television  
program guide; and  
the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to store the retrieved program on the storage  
for playback on the user television equipment.

597. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein  
the interactive television program guide is further configured  
to display information about a program recorded by the local  
media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view  
information about the program recorded by the local media  
server.

598. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein  
the local media server is further configured to fast-forward a  
program that is being played back by the local media server in  
response to the user indicating a desire to fast-forward a  
program with the interactive television program guide.

599. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein  
the local media server is further configured to rewind a program  
that is being played back by the local media server in response

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to the user indicating a desire to rewind the program with the interactive television program guide.

600. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to stop a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to stop the program with the interactive television program guide.

601. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to pause a program that is being played back by the local media server in response to the user indicating a desire to pause the program with the interactive television program guide.

602. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache the program with the interactive television program guide.

603. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:  
the local media server is further configured to automatically cache all current programs; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program with the interactive television program guide.

604. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to delete a program recorded by the local media server in response to the user

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indicating a desire to delete the program with the interactive television program guide.

605. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the local media server is further configured to automatically delete programs recorded by the local media server.

606. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to define a super-program sequence; and

the local media server is further configured to play back at least a portion of a program according to the super-program sequence.

607. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein:  
the local media server is further configured to store and play back on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the local media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to the user as if an associated program were being originally aired.

608. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the local media server to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

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609. (New) The system defined in claim 591, wherein the remote media server is further configured to determine whether a predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record a program and to direct the interactive television program guide to record the program when less than the predetermined number of users have indicated a desire to record the program.

610. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program; and  
the remote media server is configured to record the purchased pay-per-view program.

611. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to purchase a pay-per-view program package having at least one pay-per-view program; and  
the remote media server is configured to record the at least one pay-per-view program.

612. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to indicate a program grouping having at least one program for recording with the remote media server; and  
the remote media server is configured to record the at least one indicated program of the program grouping.

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613. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user that the at least one program cannot be recorded because the program is copy protected.

614. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to prevent the user from indicating the at least one program for recording by the remote media server when the program is copy protected.

615. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to record program associated data for the at least one program indicated by the user.

616. (New) The system defined in claim 615, wherein the program associated data comprises interactive content.

617. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server in response to the user indicating a desire to view a directory of program listings for programs to be recorded by the remote media server, wherein the programs were indicated by the user for recording by the remote media server.

618. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at



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least one program that is recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

619. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to display program listings for at least one program that is not recorded by the remote media server and program listings for at least one program that is to be recorded by the remote media server, in response to the user indicating a desire to view program listings.

620. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information identifies the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

621. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

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the billing information for the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and  
the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for recording programs.

622. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs recorded by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server recorded for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

623. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

624. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording programs.

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625. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to record on the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

626. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

627. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

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the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for playing back programs.

628. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs played back by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the at least one program that the remote media server played back for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

629. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the remote media server has played back for the user, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back a program with the remote media server.

630. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for playing back programs with the remote media server.

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631. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for the at least one program that the user has indicated a desire to play back with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length of the program.

632. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching a program in real time with the remote media server.

633. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

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the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates the program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on a flat fee for caching programs.

634. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program;

the system further comprises a billing system configured to charge the user for programs cached by the remote media server for the user; and

the remote media server is further configured to generate billing information used by the billing system when billing the user, wherein:

the billing information indicates a program that the remote media server cached for the user; and

the billing system charges the user based on the length of the program.

635. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:

the remote media server is further configured to cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to cache a program; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee for recording a program with the remote media server.

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636. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to  
cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to  
cache a program; and

the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a  
program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the  
remote media server, wherein the charge is based on a flat fee  
for recording programs.

637. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to  
cache a program in response to the user indicating a desire to  
cache the program with the interactive television program guide;  
and

the interactive television program guide is  
further configured to indicate to the user a charge for a  
program that the user has indicated a desire to cache with the  
remote media server, wherein the charge is based on the length  
of the program.

638. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein  
the interactive television program guide is further configured  
to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental  
control code in response to the user indicating a desire to  
record a program with the remote media server.

639. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein  
the interactive television program guide is further configured  
to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a parental

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control code in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program with the remote media server.

640. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set an audio format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the audio format.

641. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a video format in which programs are recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record programs in the video format.

642. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein:  
the interactive television program guide is further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to set a language in which program audio on a digital audio track is recorded by the remote media server; and

the remote media server is further configured to record program audio in the language.

643. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by users; and



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play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

644. (New) The system defined in claim 571, wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

automatically cache current programs that are being viewed by a subset of the users; and

play back at least a portion of a cached program in response to the user indicating a desire to view at least a portion of the cached program.

645. (New) An interactive television program guide system in which television programs are recorded and retrieved on-demand for a number of users, the system comprising:

a remote media server configured to store and retrieve programs on-demand;

an Internet service system; and

an online interactive television program guide implemented at least in part on the Internet service system and wherein the interactive television program guide is configured to:

generate a record request in response to the user indicating a desire to record a program on-demand with the remote media server; and

generate a retrieval request in response to the user indicating a desire to play back a program on-demand with the remote media server, and wherein the remote media server is further configured to:

record a program in response to the record request generated by the interactive television program guide; and

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retrieve a program in response to the retrieval request generated by the interactive television program guide.

646. (New) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the Internet service system is configured to distribute programs to each user as at least on file.

647. (New) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the Internet service system is configured to distribute programs to each user in digital data streams.

648. (New) The system defined in claim 645, wherein the interactive television program guide is further configured to play back a program that was retrieved by the remote media server.

649. (New) The system defined in claim 645, wherein:  
the remote media server is further configured to store and retrieve on-demand program guide data associated with the programs stored by the remote media server; and

the interactive television program guide is further configured to present program guide data to the users as if an associated program were being originally aired.

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